

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 19, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2218

Introduced by Assembly Member Bradford

February 20, 2014

An act to add Section 739.3 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2218, as amended, Bradford. Electricity and natural gas rates.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations and gas corporations, as defined. Existing law authorizes the commission to fix the rates and charges for every public utility, and requires that those rates and charges be just and reasonable. Existing law requires the commission to establish a program of assistance to low-income electric and gas customers, referred to as the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program.

This bill would require each electrical corporation and gas corporation, *subject to direction and supervision by the commission*, to develop and implement a program of rate assistance to eligible food banks, as defined, ~~subject to direction and supervision by the commission. at a fixed percentage to be determined by the commission. The bill would authorize the commission to adjust the fixed percentage of rate assistance as appropriate.~~

Under existing law, a violation of the Public Utilities Act or any order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the commission is a crime.

Because the provisions of this bill would be a part of the act and because a violation of an order or decision of the commission implementing its requirements would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program by creating a new crime.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 739.3 is added to the Public Utilities
2 Code, to read:

3 739.3. (a) Subject to direction and supervision by the
4 commission, each electrical corporation and gas corporation shall
5 develop and implement a program of rate assistance to eligible
6 food-banks: *banks at a fixed percentage to be determined by the*
7 *commission. The commission may adjust the fixed percentage as*
8 *appropriate.* The funding source for the rate assistance program
9 is subject to the approval of the commission. ~~For~~

10 (b) For purposes of this section, ~~“eligible the following terms~~
11 ~~have the following meanings:~~

12 (1) ~~“Eligible food bank” means a public or charitable institution~~
13 ~~that participates~~ *qualified eligible recipient agency that has*
14 *executed an agreement with the State Department of Social*
15 *Services in order to participate in The Emergency Food Assistance*
16 *Program administered by the Food and Nutrition Service of the*
17 *United States Department of Agriculture.*

18 (2) *“Eligible recipient agency” has the same meaning as defined*
19 *in Section 251.3(d) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations.*

20 (3) *“Agreement” means an agreement executed in compliance*
21 *with Section 251.2 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations.*

22 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
23 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because

1 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
2 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
3 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
4 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
5 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
6 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
7 Constitution.

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